

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-10

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P 261720Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5653

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7033

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP GR

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

1. THIS MORNING, ACCOMPANIED BY DCM AND MY SENIOR EMBASSY COLLEAGUES, I PRESENTED THE ORIGINAL COPIES OF THE LETTERS OF RECALL OF MY PREDECESSOR AND MY OWN LETTER OF CREDENCE TO GENERAL GHIZIKIS, PRESIDENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS AND CHIEF OF PROTOCOL VASSILICOS WERE ALSO PRESENT. THE PUBLIC ASPECTS OF THE CEREMONY WITH THE EVZONES WERE IMPRESSIVE AND THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE PRESS INTEREST AND PICTURE-TAKING. GHIZIKIS ALSO TOOK THE OCCASION OF OUR SHORT PRIVATE TALK TO DISCUSS THE STATE OF US-GREEK RELATIONS.

2. GHIZIKIS, I AM TOLD, IS NORMALLY TACITURN AND AN ALMOST WOODEN-LIKE SOLDIER. HOWEVER, FOLLOWING MY CONVEYING THE GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES OF MY PRESIDENT AND COUNTRYMEN, GHIZIKIS ALMOST ABRUPTLY SAID THAT HE HOPED MY ARRIVAL WOULD MARK AN UPTURN IN US-GREEK RELATIONS BASED ON REVISED WASHINGTON POLICIES. HE SAID I HAD UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN INFORMED OR HAD PERSONALLY OBSERVED THE WIDESPREAD DISAPPOINTMENT AND RESENTMENT OF THE GREEK PEOPLE AS A RESULT OF U.S. POLICIES AND ACTIONS IN RECENT WEEKS. HE SAID HE REGRETTED

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THIS AND WAS ESPECIALLY SORRY TO HAVE TO BRING SUCH A "BITTER"



MATTER TO MY ATTENTION ON THIS MY FIRST CALL AND ON THE OCCASION OF MY PRESENTING CREDENTIALS. HOWEVER, HE SAID, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO SPEAK FRANKLY. THEN HE STOPPED TALKING, NEVER HAVING MENTIONED CYPRUS OR TURKEY, OR ANYTHING MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT OUR POLICIES. (EVEN SO, ACCORDING TO VASSILICOS LATER, IT WAS BY FAR THE MOST HE HAD EVER KNOWN GHIZIKIS TO SAY ON SUCH AN OCCASION.)

3. I TOLD GHIZIKIS THAT MY GOVERNMENT ALSO HOPED THAT A NEW PHASE IN U.S.-GREEK RELATIONS WOULD BE OPENING, ONE MARKED BY THE CLOSE COOPERATION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING THAT HAD TRADITIONALLY CHARACTERIZED OUR RELATIONS. I SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD THE WARMEST AND FRIENDLIEST OF FEELINGS TOWARDS GREECE AND THAT I BELIEVED THE TRUE INTERESTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES ON THE LARGER ISSUES IN THE WORLD WERE THE SAME. I SAID WE WERE COMPLETELY TAKEN ABACK AT RECENT ANTI-AMERICAN REACTIONS IN GREECE WHICH WE FELT WERE TOTALLY UNJUSTIFIED EITHER BY EVENTS OR U.S. POLICIES AND ACTIONS. THE U.S. WAS NOT AT FAULT OR RESPONSIBLE FOR RECENT DEVELOPMENTS UNFAVORABLE TO GREECE. HOWEVER, WE WERE PREPARED TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN REASON TO MOVE AHEAD NOW IN A COOPERATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE WAY, BUT THIS OF COURSE REQUIRED UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION ON THE GREEK SIDE AS WELL. GHIZIKIS ONLY SMILED, AND AFTER A FEW PLEASANTRIES AND PRESENTING MY EMBASSY COLLEAGUES THE MEETING ENDED AND WE DEPARTED.

4. COMMENT: I THINK GHIZIKIS MAY HAVE BEEN PUT UP TO THIS BY THE OLD PRO BITSIOS -- IF SO, PROBABLY ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM CARAMANLIS. GHIZIKIS WAS NOT ARTICULATE OR VERY CONFORTABLE WITH HIS COMMENTS. THEY PROBABLY FIGURED THAT REGISTERING THIS KIND OF A SUBSTANTIVE POINT IN WHAT HAD BEEN BILLED AS A PURELY CEREMONIAL OCCASION MIGHT GIVE IT SOME EXTRA IMPACT. THEREFORE, I FELT I MUST RESPOND IN KIND -- TRYING TO BE WARM AND FRIENDLY, BUT FIRM. KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PDIP, GR, US, (KUBISCH, JACK B)  
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